FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 AUGUST 1983

Libya

Gulf of Sidra — A People's Foreign Liaison Bureau source issued a statement on 3 August denying U.S. claims that the "USS Eisenhower"is currently patrolling the Gulf of Sidra, JANA reported. The U.S. aircraft carrier is not close to the Gulf of Sidra, the statement asserted, and if it enters the area it will be "confronted" because the Gulf is "an indivisible part" of Libyan territorial waters. The Libyan Air Force has been ordered to "destroy" any target that enters it, the statement added.

Although Moscow radio's English service reported that U.S. planes from the "Eisenhower" tried to "provoke" a clash with a Libyan plane over the Gulf of Sidra, monitored Libyan sources have not mentioned any such encounter between U.S. and Libyan planes.

Chad Situation — Radio Bardai has "confirmed" that Chadian President Hissein Habre was killed during the shelling of Faya-Largeau by former President Goukouni Oueddei's forces, JANA announced. However, the Chadian charge d'affaires in Paris "categorically" denied the report, announcing in an interview with Paris radio that he had just received "confirmed" information that Habre was alive and in radio contact with Ndjamena. Nevertheless, Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine admitted in remarks reported by AFP that Libyan airstrikes have partly destroyed Faya-Largeau and have wiped out the government command post in the town, albeit "without loss of human lives as it was deserted at that time." He said the Libyan bombing has intensified and become more precise. A JANA commentary on the Chad situation reaffirmed Libya's denial of involvement in the fighting and claimed that the bombardment of Faya-Largeau was not by Libyan planes but by shelling by Goukouni's forces which are besieging the town.

PLO Affairs

Al-Biqa' Fighting — Fighting continued between Fatah loyalists and dissidents in the Ba'labakk area and the Syrian Army subsequently intervened to stop a clash between the dissidents and the Lebanese Army in the city, according to Beirut radio. The Lebanese had fired at the dissidents in response to an attack on an Army position, the radio said. Ba'labakk citizens have called for the withdrawal of armed Palestinians from the city and its suburbs, according to Voice of Lebanon and Radio Monte Carlo reports.

Political Developments — Representatives of all PLO groups have agreed to attend the PLO Central Council meeting starting in Tunis 3 August, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum declared in a statement reported by San'a' Voice of Palestine radio. Citing WAFA, the radio also reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Soviet Union in early September for talks with President Yuriy Andropov on the Palestinian issue.

A new clandestine Voice of Palestine radio heard broadcasting in the Lebanon region quoted 'Arafat as saying all Arab mediation efforts to remedy the situation in the Al-Biqa' have thus far failed. The new radio, which carried material favorable to 'Arafat, also reported that PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir and PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi recently met with other Fatah officials in northern Lebanon to discuss the Al-Biqa' situation. Blaming the current fighting on the dissidents and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-General Command, Al-Wazir said the PLO leadership is doing its best to maintain normal relations with the Syrians and appreciates every positive step by them. Meanwhile, a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary stressed that Fatah does not want a battle with the Syrians, provided this "does not mean changing the combat lines in Al-Biqa' into combat lines like those in the Golan."

Commentaries by Damascus radio's "Palestine broadcast" on 1 and 2 August sharply criticized Yasir 'Arafat, accusing the PLO leader of slandering Syria and of having lost all ability to discharge the responsibilities of his position.

Lebanon

IDF-Syrian Clash — The IDF responded to Syrian fire at an Israeli position in the Al-Biqa' valley, Jerusalem radio reported. An IDF captain subsequently died from wounds received in the clash, the radio announced.

IDF-Phalangist Relations — The IDF evacuated most of the Phalangist militia from the Kafr Falus base near Sidon although some Phalangists were allowed to remain temporarily in the barracks, Jerusalem radio reported. A Phalangist spokesman cited by Voice of Lebanon denied the militia had evacuated the base and said negotiations with the IDF were continuing. A Phalangist military spokesman denied a Beirut radio report that Phalangist Party members fired at the IDF in southern Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon noted.

McFarlane Tour — U.S. presidential envoy Robert McFarlane arrived in Jerusalem for talks with Israeli leaders on the Lebanon issue, ITIM reported. Earlier, President Amin al-Jumayyil discussed with McFarlane "several advanced ideas" which the U.S. envoy had crystallized during his recent talks with Lebanese officials and which "called for consultations" between him and the Lebanese president, according to Beirut radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Omani Advice on Israel — The Arabs should end the state of war with Israel and seek to reconcile the conflict either through Egyptian-Israeli relations or through other means, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-Alawi 'Abdallah announced at a press conference in Kuwait reported by KUNA.

Sudanese Moves — President Ja'far Numayri sent PLO Chairman 'Arafat a message related to the Sudanese leader's new political move to achieve a unified Arab stand, SUNA reported.

Iraqi Diplomacy — Revolution Command Council member Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered a message to the Kuwaiti amir from President Saddam Husayn, KUNA noted. Meanwhile, an Amman source cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that Iraq and Jordan have agreed to readjust their borders. Jordan will receive a 50 square km piece of territory that includes a military airport, the report said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces killed or wounded 6,000 Iraqis, destroyed 41 enemy tanks, and "liberated" 50 square km of Iraqi territory during their current offensive in the Mehran area, according to an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. The Iranians occupied several strategic heights and four border posts, secured the Mehran-Dehloran highway, and captured over 200 Iraqis. The communique also said Iranian forces repulsed several Iraqi counteroffensives. Iraq maintained in a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio that its forces continued to deal "crushing blows" to Iranian troops in the central sector, adding that Iraqi units also attacked the Iranians east of Basra. Iraqi planes continued to raid Iranian positions, the communique said.

In another development, the Iraqi culture and information minister warned Iran against shelling Iraqi cities, declaring in a statement reported by INA that Iraq will reply "very strongly" to this and "erase whole towns from the face of the earth" if the Iranians persist.

Meanwhile, in response to apprehension voiced by Turkey about possible damage to its interests resulting from the war, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stated in an interview reported by Tehran radio that Iran has always paid attention to safeguarding the interests of regional states. Iran wants to remove Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime with precise blows "like a surgical operation to remove a cancerous tumor," and this will benefit all nations in the region, Velayati asserted.

Iran

Khomeyni Speech — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni reaffirmed Iran's threat to shut down oil supplies from the Gulf in the event of an Iraqi attack on Iranian oil installations, telling Energy Ministry employees in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio that Iran will be able to carry out its threat before the United States "even thinks about" intervening. Khomeyni also warned the "government of the Hijaz" that it is "too puny" to prevent Iranian pilgrims making the hajj. He advised the Saudis to "wake up" and apologize "before it is too late." If Iran is prevented from sending all its pilgrims to Mecca, it will send none at all, Khomeyni said, and that could cause an "explosion" within Islam resulting in the overthrow of all shaykhs and "American lackeys." Saudi Arabia's position on the hajj issue is a "clear violation" of the Koran, Khomeyni added.

Kurdish Operations — Security forces purged 45 villages in western Iran of "counterrevolutionaries and armed outlaws," killing over 66 insurgents, Tehran radio reported.

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SPA: Soviet, Afghan Forces Advance on Qandahar

LD012058 Riyadh Spa in English 1906 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Islamabad, August 1 SPA — Eight communist troops, including a Soviet Army colonel were killed and four Soviet tanks destroyed by anti-Marxist Afghan mujahideen on July 14 at Darabad, eight kilometers west of Farah city, capital of Farah province in Western Afghanistan, London-based AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported today.

AAP report said a four-hour long fierce fighting ensued after communist conscription squads dragooned hundreds of Afghans in Farah for forced military service. After the battle at Darabad, mujahideen were able to rescue some 100 Afghan conscripts, APP claimed.

In another report AAP today said Soviet-Afghan government forces had launched a three-pronged sweep operation around Qandahar, Afghanistan's second biggest city. AAP said communist troops were advancing from north, west and south with the apparent aim to wipe out mujahideen hideouts around Qandahar.

AFP: Soviet Offensives Fail, Truce Extension Sought

OW022001 Hong Kong AFP in English 1916 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 2 (Afp) — Soviet offensives in Paghman, 15 kms (10 miles) west of Kabul, and in the Panjsher Valley to the northeast of the Afghan capital have both failed to make headway, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The Soviets are said to be seeking an extension of the truce they have had for several months with Muslim guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Masud and his forces in the valley.

They abandoned the Paghman offensive after suffering heavy casualties. Diplomatic sources claimed that at least eight helicopters loaded with dead soldiers left the zone. The Soviets are said to have lost a MIG jet and a helocopter gunship during the two-week operation. Guerrillas also claim to have captured a Soviet pilot, a Soviet nurse and an Afghan officer.

Guerrilla sources claim to have knocked out 25 armoured personnel carriers and tanks during the Paghman fighting. Several villages were badly damaged in Soviet strafing and bombing raids. In one village only 12 houses out of 150 were undamaged.

Diplomats also reported an upsurge of rebel activity in Kabul itself with a rocket and mortar attack on a former royal palace which now houses the Soviet military command. The diplomats said the attack lasted several hours and damage to the building was extensive.

The Mojahedin also made an abortive raid on the Soviet hospital near the Interior Ministry building and attacked two military posts.

Diplomats cited several sources for the reports of truce negotiations in the Panjsher Valley between guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masud and the Soviets.

The unofficial ceasefire had held since January after a sixth Soviet offensive in the valley had failed. But the truce lapsed in July and a Soviet strike was expected by the Mojahedin.

It came last week after Ahmad Masud called on the Soviets to withdraw from positions they held at the entrance to the valley in and around the town of Anaba.

The Soviets are said to be anxious to extend the truce, and bombing raids in the valley last month could be an attempt to force the guerrillas to agree to this.

United States Accused of Subversion Through Drugs

LD021434-Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto and Dari 0215 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] The journal *Pamir*, in its recent issue, in addition to home and city news, has published an article entitled "Spreading of Addiction, Another Conspiracy of Imperialism," which says:

The issue which should be labelled a conspiracy is the spreading of addiction in the country and especially in Kabul City. The unprecedented expansion of the activities of the criminal drug distribution bands has strong political as well as financial significance.

Imperialism, by spreading drugs and addiction, seriously strives to inflict a crushing blow on the revolution by spoiling our young generation, while at the same time pocketing billions of dollars.

Party wards, social and security organizations of Kabul City, all patriotic forces, and alert youths ought to use everything in their power to struggle against the death merchants and those who spread addiction so that a strong movement to oppose the merchants and those who deal in people's lives, those who spread drugs and addiction, will be created.

Delay and hesitation in this vital matter serves the interests of the counterrevolution and imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism.

Death be on the enemies of our people's life.

Rao Comments on Sri Lanka Request for Assistance

BK021300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] The external affairs minister told parliament today that there is substance [as heard] in the report that the Sri Lankan Government has sought the assistance of some foreign powers to deal with the situation there. Mr Narsimha Rao was making a statement in the two houses. He, however, added that our high commissioner in Colombo had telephoned to say according to the Sri Lanka foreign secretary, the report was mischievous. The correspondent of the American news agency, who had sent the report, had been asked to leave Sri Lanka.

The minister said that some papers have carried the report as though Sri Lanka had sought assistance not for its law and order situation, but against a foreign power. There are even reports that the Colombo press has projected India as that possible foreign power.

Mr Rao said that in the situation, such as this, many reports circulate, not all well founded or well intended. India is looking into all aspects of these reports.

Pakistan, Bangladesh Deny Military Aid Story

BK021543 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1525 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi, Tilakaratana, has expressed regrets on behalf of his government over the news circulated by the American news agency UPI which said that Sri Lanka has asked for military assistance from some countries for use against India. In a statement, he said he has been authorized to state that this news is totally baseless and a canard.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh have denied that Sri Lanka has requested any type of military assistance from their countries. Both foreign ministers are in New Delhi in connection with the South Asian regional conference.

Rao Addresses Parliament on Sri Lanka Situation

BK021641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Excerpts] The external affairs minister said in a statement in the two houses of parliament today that there is substance in the report that the Sri Lanka Government has sought the assistance of some foreign powers to deal with the situation there.

Mr Narasimha Rao said we are also in touch with several governments to emphasize our concern at the situation in Sri Lanka and at the possible future course of developments, including any foreign involvement in the region. The response of those to whom we have spoken is favorable.

Replying to a question in the Rijya Sabha about the human rights aspect, Mr Rao said that the prime minister had told the all party delegation from Tamil Nadu that several options are open to the government and are being considered.

Reporting on his visit to Sri Lanka, the minister said that Indian nationals have shown great fortitude and kept their morale. This was also true of our mission and our staff members, who are acquitting themselves commendably. He told members that there had been a number of attacks on Indian nationals and their property extending to non-Tamil Sri Lankan citizens of Indian origin of several generations standing as well as to our mission personnel.

Mr Rao said he was told that conditions in camps in Colombo and Kandy were far from satisfactory. They were overcrowded and supplies were limited. He said this is a human problem and we in India cannot remain impervious to the sufferings of large numbers of people in our immediate neighborhood. Mr Narsimha Rao said the Sri Lanka president gave him a full account of his efforts to redress Tamil grievances. He acknowledged the failure of the implementation and deplored the shift to violence.

Mr Narsimha Rao said what is of concern to us is that the lift and property of India nationals are in danger. There had been large-scale killings and destruction of property of people of Indian origin.

Mr Rao impressed on President Jayewardene of the intensity of the concern felt in India and the anxiety that the clashes and sufferings might persist or even grow.

Speaking about relief measures, the minister said the requests for assistance from India have come from all sections in Sri Lanka, including the government and opposition. India had arranged for three ships with a total carrying capacity of over 2,500 to rush to Colombo for transferring the Tamils in Colombo camps to Jaffna. We have also alerted our authorities to provide immediately fuel oil, especially kerosene. Indian Airlines will provide extra services and the ferry service to (Tallamannar) has been revived to bring back Indians stranded in Sri Lanka.

During the discussion in the Rajya Sabha, several opposition members expressed their concern over the banning of leftist parties in Sri Lanka. They demanded that the life and property of Tamils should be fully protected. Some of them said, if necessary, the issue should be brought before the United Nations. The members were unhappy that Mr Narsimha Rao could not personally visit the refugee camps.

In the Lok Sabha, the speaker announced that there will be a discussion later on the subject. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Muslim League members walked out of the house as they were not satisfied with the minister's statement.

Gandhi Meets With Pakistan's Yaqub Khan 2 August

OW021950 Hong Kong AFP in English 1842 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 2 (AFP) — Visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan had a 25-minute meeting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi here today when they were

said to have noted as good the present state of bilateral relations between the two countries.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that economic and trade relations between India and Pakistan came up for a review at their meeting.

Mr Khan also conveyed President Ziaul's greetings to Mrs Gandhi.

The Pakistani minister, who came here to attend the just concluded South Asian foreign ministers meeting, is scheduled to call on his counterpart Narasimha Rao tomorrow before his departure in the afternoon.

Strikes Protest Violent Incidents in Sri Lanka

BK021702 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, the 14-hour bundh [strike] called by the state government today to protest against the violent incidents in Sri Lanka has been total. According to the state chief secretary, Mr Chockalingam, the bundh has been by and large peaceful all over the state except for two minor incidents. Our Madras correspondent says normal life in the city came to a standstill. Except essential services, all state government and central offices remained closed. All political parties in the state joined the bundh.

In Pondichery also the bundh was total. One person was killed and one injured today when police opened fire against unruly demonstrator at Kolar gold field in Karnataka. Police had to open fire at the demonstrators, who were observing bundh against atrocities in Sri Lanka, began to throw stones.

Comprehensive Sanctions on South Africa Urged

BK030435 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] India has denounced the assistance and encouragement given by members of the international community to racist regimes. Speaking at the world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination in Geneva, the minister of state for external affairs Mr Rahim said that this is one of the biggest obstacles in eliminating racism from the world. He said India is convinced that the desired changes in South Africa could be brought about only by the imposition of comprehensive sanctions against the Pretoria regime by the UN Security Council.

In a message to the conference, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, asked those countries maintaining relations with South Africa to impose sanctions against the racist regime. She said the people of the world must begin to regard the human family as one to avoid disasters in future.

U.S. Harpoon Missile Sale to Pakistan Criticized

BK021707 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] India has expressed shock and surprise at the U.S. proposal to supply highly sophisticated Harpoon missiles to the Pakistan Navy.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in New Delhi today that this will precipitate a needless and dangerous new arms race in the region. There can be no possible justification for the induction of these weapons. They will have no bearing whatever on the situation relating to Afghanistan. In view of Pakistan's involvement along with other countries in finding a political solution to the Afhan question, the introduction of such weapon is all the more irrelevant. He stressed that particularly at this juncture countries of the region are forging new relations of friendship and cooperation.

Manufacture of Antisubmarine Helicopters Noted

BK021228 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Antisubmarine helicopters for the Indian Navy are to be indigenously manufactured. This was stated by the defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, in the Rajya Sabha today. He said during question time that the Chetak helicopter manufactured in the country is of an intermediary type and the production of more sophisticated types of helicopters will require foreign collaboration. Replying to a supplementary, the defense minister informed the house that the decision to acquire the advanced Sea King Helicopter from UK was taken after examining the merits of several other makes.

SRI LANKA

Spokesman Explains Security, Arrests, Censorship

BK021344 Colombo International Service in English 1245 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Secretary to the Ministry of State Douglas Liyanage, addressing a news conference this afternoon, said the security situation throughout the island has returned to normal. According to police information on Sunday, 31 July, 1 civilian death occurred by civilian action and 11 cases of arson and 3 cases of mischief were reported. On Monday, the 1st of this month, no deaths were reported and there were only seven cases of mischief.

Mr Liyanage said that, out of the 31 persons ordered arrested under the emergency regulation, 18 have so far been detained and the rest are yet to be arrested. The names of those persons detained and those to be detained will be announced after this news bulletin.

The secretary stressed that the public should note that it is an offense to harbor or conceal any person suspected to be a member of the proscribed organizations. It will also be an offense to fail to give immediate information that such a person has been harbored or concealed by anyone else. Such information should be given to the nearest [words indistinct] or to the officer in charge of nearest police station. These offenses, he said, are punishable by rigorous imprisonment for a term not less than 3 months and not exceeding 5 years and fine of not less than 500 rupees and not exceeding 5,000 rupees.

Answering a question, he said that the (?detention) of newspapers was in the interest of public security under the emergency regulation. Speaking on the censorship, Mr Liyanage disclosed that the two newspapers have been warned for failure to prescribed to the censorship regulation. They are *The Sun* and *The Island. The newspapers concerned have been ordered to publish* the warning in tomorrow's issue of their respective newspapers. Meanwhile, a UPI correspondent has been asked to leave the country today for transmitting a story which was turned down by the censor. Mr Liyanage pointed out that every statement of message of the [words indistinct] is subject to censorship. In the course of the news conference, the secretary said that the first ship carrying the displaced persons has arrived in Jaffna safely. They have been moved immediately either to their homes or to relatives homes.

AFP Reports on Detainees

BK021044 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 2 Aug 83

[AFP Notes: "This dispatch was subject to censorship."]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug. 2 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government today announced that 18 people considered a threat to public security, mostly from the three banned Marxist parties, have been detained under emergency regulations. Security forces were still hunting for 13 others against whom detention orders have been issued, official sources said.

Among those believed to have gone underground were three leaders of the Janata Vimukti Peramuna (People's Liberation Front — JVP). The JVP launched the 1971 insurrection against the Sirima Bandaranaike government which according to official statistics left 1,200 people dead.

The three were Rohana Wijeweera, Upatissa Gamanayake and Lionel Bopage. Police were also looking for Vasudeva Nanayakkara, leader of the Naya Sama Samaja Party (New Equal Society Party-NSSP), who was detained during the insurrection while he was a member of parliament. Among those arrested was the general secretary of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL), the third party banned on Saturday. CPSL Politburo member D.E.W. Gunasekera and veteran trade unionist L.W. Panditha were also arrested.

The government accused the three parties, aided by a "foreign power," of exploiting ethnic riots which erupted 10 days ago, and have caused more than 200 deaths, according to officials, and left about 50,000 people, mainly Tamils homeless.

(In New Delhi today, the foreign ministers, of Pakistan and Bangladesh denied press reports that their government had received a request from the Sri Lankan Government for military assistance in case of a foreign attack. Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha said: "No such request has been received by my government." Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the press that his government was prepared to offer humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka. They were attending the South Asian minister's conference in the Indian capital.)

Curfew Lifted, To Be Reimposed; No Incidents Reported

BK030200 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] The curfew in force in Sri Lanka has been lifted at 0400 and will be reimposed at 1600. Government departments and offices will continue to function as usual. However, in view of the curfew, they will close early to enable people to return to their homes on time. Private organizations will also implement this arrangement.

Meanwhile, the security situation throughout the country is reported to be returning to normal. No new incidents have been reported by the police so far.

Minister Speaks on Measures for Reconstruction

BK021629 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] The minister of finance and planning, Ronald de Mel,said today that the nation which had successfully weathered challenges during its 2,500-year history will without doubt be able to overcome the present crisis. Speaking on radio on the country's present situation, De Mel stressed that no person or organization or party will be allowed to divide the country. He said that the

people of this country are not prepared to be subjugated by any local or foreign government.

De Mel said that the 6th Amendment to the Constitution which will be debated in parliament Thursday provides for the imposition of civic disability on all those who campaign for or support the division of the country. Such persons would also be barred from practicing any profession in this country.

The minister, explaining the vast destruction caused by the recent incidents said that we are now faced with the gruelling task of searching for the funds to rehabilitate the country. The achievements of Sri Lanka over the past 6 years were a wonder to the whole world. Sri Lanka achieved this economic growth in an adverse world economic situation. Inflation was reduced to 10 percent and the government hoped to reduce this further to 6 percent within the next few years.

Explaining in detail the development achieved in agriculture, foreign investment, and the industrial sector, De Mel said that the government planned to spend a massive 218 billion rupees over the next 6 years. The implementation of this program would have made Sri Lanka enter a golden era by year 1989 leaving no place for the opponents of the government. Therefore, the minister pointed out, it was the aim of these elements to destroy this goal. Last week's disturbances were the result of this attempt.

De Mel said that prominence should now be given to rehabilitating the country and the maintenance of law and order. De Mel announced that a special rehabilitation and reconstruction fund will be set up to help repair the damage and to revive the economy. A ministry for this purpose is to be set up under the president. The minister said social justice should be established under a democratic set up. For this purpose a strong administration based on political stability is essential. The minister appealed for the continued cooperation of the Maha Sangha and other religious leaders to restore peace and unity to the country.

Khomeyni Speaks on Gulf Oil Supplies, Saudi Leaders

LD021333 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni at meeting with Energy Ministry representatives and others on 2 August at Jamaran Mosque in Tehran — recorded, duration 36 minutes]

[Excerpts] I have heard that toward the end of his reign this very Mohammad Reza Shah — when Iran had risen, when the people had revolted, and when the foreigners realized they could not keep him in power; when they realized that this puppet was no longer useful — according to people who were present, when told by the Americans that he should go, dropped the pen he was using. This is how weak he was. But you saw what he did to the nation.

However, such is the nature of the government of the deprived that if today the U.S. President comes over here, intending to insult an employee of one of our government departments, he would be slapped. [shouts of approval and "God is great; Khomeyni,the leader" and "Death to America," "Death to Israel," and "Death to the Soviet Union"] Former governments would not have thought of dealing with the American or the Soviet Embassy as they are dealt with under the present government of the deprived people. Actually, they were incapable of thinking along these lines.

Today, it is inherent in the government of the deprived not to submit to any fear. America is giving orders to the bullying governments from across the seas, and they obey its orders. However, the Iranian Government, being the government of the deprived people, is ignoring it. Take this case involving Iranian oil, when Saddam or one of his ministers said that they would strike at Iranian oil, that they would, for instance, get some aircraft from France and attack the Iranian oil field, Iran and Iranian soldiers said: Should you make such a mistake, we would shut off the oil to all foreign countries. This is a fact.

America, sitting across the seas, says: We will maintain the security of the Gulf. Before it even thinks about this, the fact is that it has already been accomplished in Iran.

What America should be thinking about is to have its servants, such as Saddam, behave properly. As for Iran, here no one is prepared to sit by while they deal a blow to it. [shouts of approval] In Iran, it is the govenment of the people. Therefore, a popular government cannot fear such an act from America. Here it is the government by the needy, government by the poor. These people have no fear that they would lose their positions if something happens.

America and similar countries must not imagine that the situation now is similar to the periods when the shah and Reza Khan obeyed every utterance by America. Indeed not. If one of your ambassadors tries to insult one of our employees today we would throw him out, if he is not taught to behave before that.

This is one of the characteristics of the government of the deprived. It is neither afraid of this superpower nor afraid of the other superpower, nor is it afraid of war. Do you think that if such a war had broken out under the former regime the situation of Iran would have been the same as it is today, that people would have remained steadfast at the fronts and behind the lines and would have smashed America in the mouth in this way? Saddam is of no consequence. This blow has been delivered to America, who unleashed him and misled that wretched man and brought him to the present impasse.

Today our people are not afraid of war. Why should they be afraid of war? Do they fear a war that someone might come and dictate to them. They threw them out. No one can enter here. Should the people be afraid of a coup d'etat? Who has the temerity to stage a coup d'etat? Who can stage a coup d'etat in this country, a country where all the people are mobilized to confront the enemy, even the ladies behind their veils. This is one of the characteristics of the government of the oppressed people, that they have no fear.

Foreign embassies can no longer deal arrogantly with the Iranian Government. In the past, the government belonged to foreign embassies. One day it was the British Embassy that controlled everything. Later, it was the American Embassy. Today, no embassy can say something here that might insult one of our employees, whether it is the Soviet Embassy or the American Embassy or others.

Today, the great powers should recognize the fact that they can no longer have the same domination here that they had during the time of Mohammad Reza or during the time of Reza Khan. Today such things are no longer acceptable. Such words are empty these days. The Gulf sheykhs and those who are in charge of governments in Islamic countries should pay attention to this. We have repeatedly said that they should not behave like this toward our country. They will wake up one day when it is too late. The government of the Hijaz will wake up some day when the issue is over. It should start now to mend its ways.

Preventing Iranian pilgrims from making the hajj is not something the government of the Hijaz can get away with. The government of the Hijaz is too puny to prevent the pilgrims. Nevertheless, they are causing obstacles. They will wake up on a day when it is too late and when they will no longer be able to apologize. They should pay attention today. You who claim that you are custodians of the holy shrine, you who are in a country that houses the house of God, you should not think that you own the house of God. The house of God belongs to the Muslims.

American advisers live in comfort in the Hijaz; they are paid as much as they like from the wealth of the deprived people and from the oil of the deprived people. Yet Iranian pilgrims are considered harmful to them. Why are they harmful? When a government becomes a lackey of another government, she is forced to protect the interests of that government. Why should we be servile? We want the Islamic governments to be proud, to be masters of the world, just as the Iranian Government is today. Why should you make yourselves so servile to America that you would not dare to allow some other people to say something about America or about Israel in Mecca and not want the Iranian Government to send its 100,000 pilgrims. Iran will send either all its pilgrims or none of them. [shouts of "God is great" and "Khomeyni is the leader"]

I advise the government of the Hijaz not to treat Muslims like this and not to be so supportive of the enemies of Islam and the enemies of the holy house of God. I advise them to wake up before it is too late. They should not wait to apologize when it is too late.

They should consider the situation of Saddam. The Iraqi Government was more powerful than all the governments of the region. But today he has become so miserable that he does not know what to do. He is extending a begging hand in all directions, and it does him no good.

I warn the governments of the Gulf and the governments of the region to stop opposing Iran and assisting Saddam. They should stop so that the Ba'thist Party may be destroyed and so the Government of Iraq fall into the hands of the Muslims. Just as Iran is being administered by the people themselves, so Iraq should be the same. An Islamic government is better for all the sheykhs of the region than the flimsy American power. They should review their remarks. They should not sit in their large palaces thinking that because they live in palaces they can do this or that to Iran.

God forbid that this year the Iranian pilgrims do not go to Mecca and God forbid that this causes an explosion within Islam and among Muslims, as the result of which there will no longer be a sheykh and no more American lackeys left. Come to your senses and pay attention to the fact that this issue is an Islamic issue. It is a clear violation of the Koran. How could those who engage in clear opposition to the Koran call themselves an Islamic government and be the custodians of Mecca.

Therefore, due to the fact that we wish to act with friendship toward all governments and toward all Muslims, and since we never want to act harshly, once again I ask them to reassess their thoughts. When the day comes that you are in trouble, America will be of no use to you; just as now America is of no use to Saddam. It keeps saying that it is impartial. It cannot say that it takes sides. They want to make people fight one another so that they can benefit from it. They are not prepared to have their own soldiers killed for the sake of Saddam or for the sake of others. The rest of the governments of the region should wake up and should take a lesson from the difficulties of Saddam. If they repent and return to Islamic ways, Almighty God is forgiving; and also we follow the teaching of God.

Official Comments on Saudis 'Obstructing Pilgrims'

LD021202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] The imam's representative for hajj affairs and the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca, Musavi Kho'ini, this morning took part in a press, radio, and television interview attended by foreign and domestic correspondents and replied to their questions.

Commenting on Saudi Arabia's obstructing the Iranian pilgrims' visit to Mecca, he said: The obstructions set up by the rulers of Saudi Arabia stem from an anti-Islamic and colonailist mentality; they are separating religion from politics. With such a mentality, the Saudi Government is trying to keep the hajj precept meaningless. However, they must bear in mind that, faced with Muslim sentiment and the religious might of Muslim people, they will be unable to resist or be obstinate, for this would bring them grave consequences. Muslims are determined to carry out this religious duty even if they have to live in mosques or on the streets because of the Saudi rulers' measures. As for us, we do not mind very much if we have to have several thousand revolutionary pilgrims day in and day out inside the great mosque. He then added: Whether the Saudi regime intends to leave the pilgrims alone or stop them it cannot, in either case, claim that the hajj pilgrimage is simply religious worship, for the very act of obstruction is involvement in politics. Moreover, it is an act favoring America and Israel.

Kho'ini then said: What do our pilgrims say? They shout, "Death to Israel, a usurper which massacres Muslims." They say, "Death to America, for it ha brought all nations under its oppression." During the hajj pilgrimage, Muslims say, "Death to the USSR, which has occupied the Islamic country of Afghanistan."

It therefore transpires that our dispute with Saudi Arabia stems from its claim that hajj should be coupled with the policy of compromise with Israel and America, whereas we say hajj should confront America and Israel. No one knows who has allowed them to impose their policy on hajj.

Commenting on the probability of stopping the Iranian pilgrims from entering the house of God, he said: The Saudi Arabian Government and Muslims must remember that what is confronting us is not the Aaudi Arabian regime but America, which opposes Muslims.

Velayati: Neighboring States Have No Cause To Worry

LD021752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] In connection with media reports on Turkey's apprehension about the possibility of any damage being inflicted on that country's interests in the Iraqi war against Iran, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview with our colleague that the main objective of the operations of the combatants of Islam is to achieve the Islamic Republic's conditions for ending the Iraqi-imposed war upon Iran, and its blows are precisely aimed at Saddam's disintegrating regime and against the ruling Ba'thist regime in Baghdad, which does not refrain from any action to protect itself even if it seriously clashes with the interests of other neighbors — a clear example of which is the attack against the oil wells and the oil slick — while the Islamic Republic of Iran has always paid attention to safeguarding the interests of the region's nations.

Referring to the priority of observing goodneighborliness in Iranian foreign policy, he said that the advance of the combatants of Islam and Saddam's overthrow not only would be a victory for the Islamic Republic, but would also be in the interest of all the nations in the region, because these operations are just like a surgical operation to remove a cancerous tumor in the region, that is, Saddam's regime. God willing, with the absence of the

Iraqi Ba'thist regime, the region will enjoy security and,in our opinion, the neighboring countries have no cause to worry.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,406
LD021932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,406 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted Name. Dear compatriots, we hereby bring to your attention reports on the relentless and tireless battle waged by the self-sacrificing heroes and the mighty combatants of Islam on the fronts of the imposed war.

On the Val-Fajr II operational fronts, Islam's selfless combatants, increasingly completing, strengthening, and stabilizing their defensive positions and opening heavy fire on the bases and deployment points of the Saddamist mercenaries, halted the Iraqi forces' engineering operations and mine-laying activities and smashed three of their newly built bases in the region, inflicting appreciable losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces. In the Sar Dasht border region, thanks to the fire opened by our combatants, several enemy bases and ammunition dumps were set ablaze and more 10 Iraqi troops were killed.

On the Bakhtaran border fronts, a sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between our forces and the enemy and the heavy artillery fire of our combatants continued to pound the enemy's infantry, tank, and artillery positions and inflicted casualties.

On the Val-Fajr III operational fronts, a number of enemy tanks in Ad Darraji region attempted to approach our combatants' positions, but thanks to fire opened by our forces one tank of the Saddamist mercenaries was utterly destroyed and the rest disappeared from the scene. Also, artillery fire aimed at the Iraqi Kasekat post inflicted a great deal of losses and casualties on that post, and one motor park of the Iraqi forces was set ablaze and important losses were inflicted on the enemy. At about 0015 yesterday, the Iraqi forces embarked on an offensive in the Shalamcheh region, but thanks to the heroic resistance put up by the selfless combatants of Islam the operations by the Saddamist mercenaries were repulsed and the enemy's movements were halted. Finally, at 0530 today, Islam's victorious troops repulsed the aggression by the Saddamist mercenaries and killed or wounded more than 300 Iraqi troops, pinning them down.

In the Sharhani region,one enemy motorized column came under artillery fire from our combatants, thereby suffering losses, while the Iraqi column was prevented from moving.

On other operational fronts in the south, a sporadic exchange of fire continued between our combatants and the mercenary Saddamist forces and Islam's combatants continued to consolidate their defensive positions and opened defensive fire, silencing the fire of the Iraqi forces.

The city of Abadan yesterday also came under fire from the long-range weapons of the Saddamist mercenaries in the course of which one house was destroyed and the city's mosque was damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Operational Headquarters Issues Communique No 3
LD021919 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Communique No 3 of An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, joint operational center of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And fight them until there is no sedition left and until the faith in its entirety belongs to God! [Koranic verse]

A salute to you fighting travelers on the path of love of dear Islam! Peace be upon you lovers of the Husaynite path! Greetings and salutations of the wakeful and self-sacrificing Islamic nation of Hezbollah on you, zealous lionhearted men of the battlefield against world blasphemy and worshipping God-seeking elements of the clerical quarters who with their sacrifices and commendable selflessness have brought great victories to the Islamic nation and the Islamic Republic of Iran and dealt heavy defeat to the Zionist Saddamists and their filthy Eastern and Western backers!

Revolutionary, Muslim nation, Islam's combatants, with hearts brimming with love for God, taking succour from God Almighty's hidden assistance, have begun the victorious Val-Fajr III operations with the aim of thwarting the evil posed by the aggression launched by the Zionist, Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq, destroying the enemy forces and removing the city of Mehran and its environs from the observation and fire range of the criminal enemy, liberating the dam on the Konjan Cham River, the heights, hamlets, and the border posts of the Islamic homeland and liberating the important, strategic Mehran-Dehloran highway, the (?most important) border highway linking the south to the western part of the country, under the command of the An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and have dealt heavy blows at the Ba'thist aggressors.

Islam's mighty fighting forces, made up of the heroes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the self-sacrificing guards and the mobilization forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, during these victorious operations succeeded in liberating the sensitive Zalu Ab Heights, including the Kalleh (Qandi) Heights, Heights No 343, 325, and 340, the (Nam-e Kolangu) and (Nam-e) Kalal-e Kuchak Heights, the border posts of Rezaabad and (Karrokhabad) in Iran and surrounding hamlets, as well as the border posts of Zalu Ab and Durraji in Iraq, and the important, strategic Mehran-Dehloran highway. The forces also succeeded in taking the city of Dehloran out of range of direct enemy observation.

During these victorious operations, Islam's combatants also succeeded in dealing blows to the enemy and in destroying more than 60 percent of the enemy's 4th Border Guards Brigade, the 417th, 420th, 503d and 502d Infantry Brigades, the 37th Armored Brigade of the 12th Division and the (Al-Maqdum), (Al-Muthanna),and (Al-Hudaybiyah) Battalions, and in utterly destroying an enemy commando battalion, one tank battalion, and the 1st Battalion of the enemy's 420th Infantry Brigade.

During these operations, Islam's combatants captured more than 200 of the Zionist enemy, among whom could be seen 5 officers and a number of NCO's and Ba'thists. The Islamic combatants killed or wounded more than 6,000 of them and then forced the remnants of the moribund Ba'thist forces to take to their heels. During these operations, the heroic, self-sacrificing troops of the Islamic army so far have liberated more than 50 sq km of the sacred Islamic soil of Iran and the important strategic heights in the region, removed more than 200 sq km of our country's soil from the direct observation and fire of the Zionist enemy and liberated some 50 sq km of Iraqi soil from the clutches of the Saddamists.

During these successful operations, the God-seeking soldiers of the imam of the era — may God Almighty hasten his noble advent — while capturing more than 15 APC's, 20 vehicles, 46 antiaircraft guns, mortar launchers and heavy machineguns, 5 pieces of engineering and road-building equipment and large quantities of ammunition and one-man weapons, succeeded in destroying 41 tanks, 20 APC's, 37 vehicles, 85 mortar launchers, artillery pieces and heavy machineguns and several big ammunition dumps, and 6 engineering and road-building machines.

The forces of the Zionist, Ba'thist regime ruling Baghdad, after suffering heavy defeat in the victorious Val-Fajr III operations, desperately embarked on a few offensives, but thanks to divine grace and the vigilance and self-sacrifice of the glorious combatants of Islam the enemy's efforts were repulsed and heavy blows were dealt him.

During these victorious operations, the selfless men of the reconstruction crusade, with their ceaseless efforts on the sides of the heroes of the combatant engineers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and also the devoted relief and medical forces, are giving succour to the victorious Islamic combatants. The sons of the Islamic nation will continue their sacred jihad until they achieve final victory and realize the just conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the total defeat of the Zionist Saddam. Along this path they are strengthened by the benevolent prayers of the imam and the martyr-nurturing Islamic nation.

If God grants you victory none shall vanquish you! [Koranic verse rendered in Arabic]

[Signed] An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Montazeri Notes Problems With Goods Distribution

LD011328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Mohammad Taqi Banki, minister of state in charge of plan and budget organizations, together with that office's deputies, yesterday met and conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom.

The Central News Unit reports that at this meeting Mr Banki reported first on the economic growth rate in industrial and agricultural sectors.

Ayatollah Montazeri, while praising the work and efforts of the government in helping the growth and increased industrial production of the country then said: Although the efforts of the government in production and industrial sectors have been successful, unfortunately, there is cause for concern over the distribution of goods, and we hope that with the government's new plan this situation will be corrected.

He also emphasized: In the production sector, we should try to give the private sector the incentive to increase its investments and its efforts to step up the country's production growth rate, since experience shows that if production is left entirely up to the government or cooperatives active and expert forces in the country have no incentive for using all their resources and abilities and, as a result production rates, would not go up.

About the goods bought abroad because of low production inside the country, his excellency said: The government should adopt a policy under which the domestic producer would find it profitable to continue production; otherwise, he would use his energy on profitable ventures without considering the good of the country or the people.

45 Villages 'Cleansed' of 'Counterrevolutionaries'

LD021953 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] According to a report received from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada — peace be upon him — Headquarters, in the course of four coordinated operations launched in the past few days, the combatants of Islam cleansed 45 villages in the western parts of the country from the filth of the existence of counterrevolutionaries and armed outlaws.

During a coordinated operation in the Mahabad region, the combatants of Islam cleansed four villages; the defenders of the Islamic Revolution then took up positions in the mopped up regions. In the course of this operation, 21 armed bandits were killed and 24 wounded.

During a clash in the Qotur region between the forces of Islam and mercenaries affiliated with the global arrogance, 15 counterrevolutionaries were killed, 10 wounded, and 3 captured. In the

course of a coordinated operation, 27 villages in the vicinity of Saqqez were mopped up by the warriors of Islam and a number of the mercenaries of the global arrogance were killed, a large number wounded, and five arrested.

In the course of coordinated operations carried out by the forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Sanandaj-Kamyaran axis, 14 villages were cleansed from the filth of the presence of armed bandits. In the course of this operation, 30 counterrevolutionaries were killed and arms and ammunition were captured by the combatants of Islam.

Leaders Meet With Niger Foreign Minister

Prime Minister Musavi

LD241043 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi said here Saturday that Iran's inclination towards the Third World and the policy of neither West nor East were drastic changes made in its foreign policy after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

In a meeting with the visiting Niger Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo who is heading a high-ranking delegation, the prime minister stressed that the Islamic Republic believed Third World countries enjoyed large facilities that could assist them in reaching self-sufficiency and independence vis-a-vis world oppression.

Referring to Iran's withdrawal from the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO), Musavi noted that prior to the Islamic Revolution, Iran's relations with Turkey and Pakistan were confined to a military pact.

CENTO, the prime minister emphasised, was a U.S. pact to preserve interests of the United States in the region.

Under such circumstances, Iran's dealings with CENTO members hardly reached 10 million dollars whereas the same would amount to 2.5 billion dollars during the current year. The differential of these two figures would be used for the purchase of goods from Third World countries, instead of being wasted in dealings with imperialist states, the prime minister said.

He hoped for a constructive future outlook in Irano-Niger relations in the interest of both countries. He also expressed hope that the visit to Iran of the Niger's official would be a prelude for further strengthening of Islamic Republic ties with African nations.

Praising Niger's positive stance in New Delhi (during non-aligned summit held last March) on the Iraqi imposed war, Musavi recommended boosting of bilateral trade and also exploration of the possibilities of the two countries' relation in other fields. Niger's foreign minister appreciated Musavi's recommendation for further expansion of mutual ties. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was also present.

President Khamene'i

GF241800 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The Niger Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting the Islamic Republic met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here today.

Daouda Diallo expressed his country's desire for the expansion of ties between the two Muslim countries and conveyed the profound respect and friendship of the Muslim people of Niger and its president to President Khamene'i.

President Khamene'i, pointing to the need for further expansion of ties with Third World countries welcomed the endeavours of the foreign minister of Niger for expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic. He further said that the issues pertaining to African countries and the continent were of vital importance to us. He said the domination of the apartheid South African Government over Africa was painful for us and therefore immediately after the victory of the Islamic Revolution we severed all diplomatic and economic relations with this racist regime.

Khamene'i said a real and all-out confrontation by the Third World countries against the global powers is necessary. He said a primary issue, but one having immense importance because of the problems it creates in the Third World countries was the indefatigable efforts of the superpowers to meddle in the affairs of these countries. He further said that with the experience Iran has achieved in struggles against the U.S. it is ready to combat any monopolistic moves by the superpowers.

Commenting on the issue of Chad, Khamene'i said that we are of the opinion that Chad should not be the arena for superpower rivalry.

Concluding President Khamene'i pointed to the need of having closer ties with Third World countries and said that the Islamic Republic is interested in having mutually rewarding ties and healthy political and economic exchanges with them.

He said undoubtedly the Muslim people of Niger are true friends, a good ally and will cooperate with the Islamic Republic Government and its people.

Finance, Economics Minister

GF251713 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 25 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 25 (IRNA) — In a meeting Sunday afternoon between the Iranian finance and economics minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Namazi and the Niger foreign Minister Daouda Diallo, the former expressed hope for the expansion of relations among Third World countries and their strength in the face of the superpowers.

Namazi added that the Muslim and Third World countries had many facilities for the development of their ties and procurement of political, economic independence in these fields.

He called on these countries to neutralise the superpowers plots through suitable means and unity, and further counter the imperialist plunderings of the sources of the Third World countries by economic cooperation.

Namazi then voiced satisfaction over the cooperation between Iran and Niger in cultural, economic and political areas and emphasised that the cooperation should be long-term.

He then said that Iran welcomed the opening of its embassy in Niger and would provide facilities for Niger to do the same in Tehran.

While condemning the international imperialist plots to emphasise on racism and making nations confront each other, Namazi said by using the tenets of Islam which regarded the only principle of superiority to the self-restraint and piety, rather than race, color, etc., the Third World countries could fight that plot.

He added that Iran could not deal with Niger in hegemonist ways since it abided by the religion of Islam and it regarded the success of the Muslim nations and Niger as its own.

Meanwhile, the Niger foreign minister, while referring to the history of his country said that still in his country, foreigners were exploiting its mines and natural resources, and that his government preferred Iran and the Muslim and Third World countries to work in Niger rather than the superpowers.

He said his country would give all opportunities to Iran for the expansion of the bilateral economic ties with his country to boost Niger's economic growth.

In response, Namazi said that Iran will try to help Niger in eliminating its problems, and that Iran regarded the prospects of the bilateral ties with optimism.

In conclusion, the Iranian minister of finance and economics assured the Niger official that the progression of imperialist plots in the world was falling and that Muslim countries will block the way for the imperialists, something which was already realised in Iran, he then hoped for the Niger nation's success.

In the meeting yesterday, the deputy finance minister Sherafat was also present.

Sierra Leone, Niger Foreign Ministers End Visits

LD261031 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 26 IRNA — The Sierra Leone foreign minister Abdullah Konte and his counterpart from Niger, Daouda Diallo, concluded their five-day visit to Tehran and left here at 07:20 a.m. today.

During their stay in Iran, the two officials, heading delegations from their countries, held talks with high-ranking Iranian political, cultural and economic authorities.

The Sierra Leone's was the third political delegation to visit Iran. Sierra Leone signed a contract for the purchase of 350,000 tons of crude oil from the Islamic Republic Monday. A joint communique is due to be released in Tehran and in Freetown Wednesday on the bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Diallo's visit to Iran was the first tour of a Niger delegation to the Islamic Republic.

Velayati Discusses Ties With Niger, Sierra Leone

LD262056 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 26 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 26 (IRNA) — "After the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the Iranian Government changed its foreign policy, in a deep transformation for establishing and expansion of ties with African and Muslim countries of the Third World," said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today.

Speaking on the Iranian foreign policy with the African countries and the Third World, he said that the policy of Iran was based on having ties with Muslim countries and then with the Third World countries and those of African Continent. He said the recent trips of the foreign ministers of Sierra Leone and Niger attested to that tenet.

He noted that those ministers had many meetings with Iranian officials and they aimed at development of bilateral ties in political, economic, commercial, cultural and medical areas.

On the Sierra Leonese foreign minister's trip to Iran, he said the delegation led by Abdullah Konte was the third delegation from that country to Iran in the past year, with the first being a purely economic one, and the second being for the studying of the cooperation bases in the political, economic fields, and that the third delegation was on a more extensive area.

He added that the Iranian Embassy has been opened in Freetown and Iran has introduced its ambassador to the government there for some two months. In addition to that, said Velayati, Iran is to open its culture house in Freetown after the meeting of Kinte with Islamic Guidance Minister Khatami.

Also, an Iranian agricultural delegation will travel to Sierra Leone to study rice plantations there, and an Iranian medical delegation will go to Sierra Leone in order to share medical experiences in fighting contagious diseases.

Meanwhile, he added that Iran was to sell Sierra Leone some 350,000 barrels of oil a day.

He said the signed letter of understanding will show all the cooperation between the two countries while the mutual communique of the two foreign ministers will be published simultaneously in Tehran and Freetown tomorrow. He added that a joint committee will be formed to prepare the draft for the agreement between the two countries.

On the trip of the Niger Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo to Iran, Velayati said that it was the first of the kind, and that he had met with Niger president and foreign minister in Niamey when he took part in the Islamic Conference Organisation meeting there and in the non-aligned summit in New Delhi. He said that

Iran and Niger are to open embassies in each other's countries in the near future, and that Iran will use Niger facilities in meat production and leather manufacturing.

He said since 90 per cent of Niger and 70 per cent of Sierra Leone people were Muslims, the cultural relations between the two countries were of high caliber.

He said he will visit those countries in his upcoming trip to the African Continent in the near future for further expansion of Iranian ties in cultural, economic, and commercial spheres. He concluded by saying that Islam played a crucial role in the relations of Iran with countries and that the countries' political sidings and positions also was important for Iran.

Central Bank Governor Returns From Syria 2 Aug

GF021714 Tehran IRNA English 1625 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA — A banking agreement was signed between central banks of Iran and Syria following the three-day visit of the governor of the Central Bank of Iran [CBI], Mohsen Nurbakhsh, to Damascus.

The CBI governor who was speaking to IRNA after his arrival here today said that during the visit he held talks with his Syrian counterpart, Rif'at al-'Aqqad as well as the minister of economy and foreign trade, Dr. Salim Yasin, and minister of oil and natural resources Dr. 'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Dahhak.

In these meetings ways of expanding trade relations between the two countries and also issues related to export of oil to Syria were discussed and agreements were reached, he added.

He further told IRNA that in a meeting with the Syrian prime minister Dr. 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the latter had expressed interest of his government and nation for further progress of mutual relations. Furthermore the Syrian prime minister compared the struggle of Syria against the Zionists in Lebanon to that of Iran against Iraq.

The agreement concluded between the two parties would facilitate credit accomodations between the two countries, he added. In addition, the agreement would enable both countries to adjust the volume of their export and import through the special account opened by the two countries, two years ago. Nurbakhsh said that his trip was useful and highly productive.

Commentary Calls for Vigilance Among Afghans

GF021136 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Struggle of revolutionary Muslims in Afghanistan"]

[Text] It is obvious that there are numerous difficulties confronting a political solution to the question of Afghanistan. Both imperialist powers are doing everything possible to suppress the Islamic revolution of Muslims in Afghanistan. Both the Soviet Union and the United States -- that is to say both vampire powers -- want to increase their influence over Afghanistan through their agents. The Soviet Union, which gave an excuse to the Western bloc by attacking the Islamic land of Afghanistan with a view to supporting the puppet Kabul regime, has displayed its weakness through its failure in crushing the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. Benefitting from the existing situation, the United States and its collaborators increased their positions in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean with the pretext of preventing the Soviet Union from moving into warm waters. World-devouring America intends to establish a place for itself within the ranks of the Muslims through its agents in order to exploit the struggle of the Muslims of Afghanistan. The latest propaganda from the Western world is indicative of the Western intention to reinstate a sultanate in Afghanistan.

Such are the difficult conditions under which the Muslim revolutionary people of Afghanistan are waging their liberation struggle. The Muslim revolutionary people of Afghanistan have to struggle against the (?treacherous intentions) of the two superpowers, maintaining vigilance in the meantime not to approach, God forbid, another bloc -- that is to say the treacherous Western bloc -- while fighting against the occupationist and aggressive Soviet Union. The Muslims of Afghanistan must not allow a different imperialist force to infiltrate their ranks while they are engaged in a struggle against communist imperialism. The current struggle, which is being waged with the participation of tthe majority of the people, can only be successful in the future if it is maintained with stability. This is how it can satisfy the demand of the majority. And, regardless of the difficulties, we hope for the continuation of the struggle of the Muslim revolutionary Afghans until the Islamic land of Afghanistan is liberated and until an Islamic government is established. According to recent reports on the struggle of the Muslims in Afghanistan, the mujahidin have attacked the headquarters of the occupationist Soviet troops and the forces of Babrak Karmal around Herat during the past few days and succeeded in killing or wounding a large number of the enemy. They also succeeded in seizing a large quantity of heavy arms. The same reports say that the number of desertions from the ranks of the puppet Afghan regime's forces is increasing. Some of the deserters are joining the ranks of the mujahidin. A large number of men from the (?Shayda) Garrison in [words indistinct] have defected to the side of the Muslim revolutionaries (?during the latter part of the past week).

ARA Reports Khomeyni Suffered Mild Heart Attack

GF022022 Paris Ara in Persian 7 Jul 83 p 8

[Excerpt] A group of Iranians and informed observers believe that when the executioner Khomeyni became aware of the efforts of a number of brave officers of the Air Force some days ago to bomb Jamaran castle and fire rockets against the throne of this false imam, the 13th imam became so upset that he suffered a mild heart attack. This attempt by these military men ended in failure because of the treachery of a number of sold-out traitors. Three colonels and two captains were arrested and all of their weapons were discovered, while the rest of the plotters managed to escape. Whatever the rumors, we will soon learn whether the mercenary Khomeyni is again resorting to his old tricks or if this time, he is really wrestling with imminent death.